



Washington Watch

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South Point Plaza — Lansing, Michigan 48910

Dear Friend:

There are really three kinds of news: managed news, visible news and hidden news.

For example, during the recent India-Pakistan war, the Nixon Administration's attempt at managed news portrayed the two countries as equally at fault while the United States was strictly neutral.

The visible news was that the Bengali people were suffering the worst oppression since Hitler's extermination of Europe's Jews and India's intervention was necessary before millions more died.

The hidden news was that President Nixon was demanding through Henry Kissinger that U.S. Policy "tilt" in favor of Pakistan's dictator Yahya Khan.

It is only now and then that hidden news becomes visible and makes front-page headlines, such as when the nation was rocked by the uncovering of the massacre at My Lai, the publication of the secret Pentagon Papers and the ITT loan scandal.

But a surprising amount can be known all along about the hidden news through patient fitting together of scraps and bits of information.

A lone, courageous Washington journalist has been doing exactly that for over four years. He is Tristram Coffin, author of the semi-monthly newsletter, Washington Watch.

Mr. Coffin is a relentless news detective. He searches through newspapers and magazines from all over the world the way a criminal investigator searches a robbed room for fingerprints.

He spends countless hours sifting through such widely varied publications as: Washington Post . . . LeMonde of Paris . . . the Christian Science Monitor . . . the Tokyo weekly Syukan Sinte . . . the Congressional Quarterly . . . the New York Times . . . Nation . . . the Soviet Defense Ministry newspaper Red Star . . . Manchester Guardian . . . the Texas Observer . . . Der Spiegel -- to name just a few.

A sentence here, a paragraph there, a revealing quote, are seized, clipped and fitted into a meaningful pattern of events that escape most casual readers.

While the news media were busily reporting the surface pomp and circumstance of Nixon's visit to China, Coffin gave the readers a different perspective.

"China," he reported, "is trying to drag the U.S. into its struggle with Russia as a military and political ally."

"This would give China time to arm itself for a full-scale war with the U.S.S.R. Peking is rushing nuclear, missile, and underground shelter programs with the military apparently in charge."

"This tactic was decided after detailed reports of the strong anti-Russian feelings of Mr. Nixon and his advisor Henry Kissinger."

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Ross Terrill tells of his conversation with Chinese leaders and says:

"Kissenger's alleged hostility to the Soviet Union struck them as one of his most positive attitudes."

In the same issue of Watch, you would have learned . . .

- ...the ill-fated Chou-Nixon scheme for rescuing Yahya Khan.
- ...how Chou's opposition in China's internal power struggle blames Chou for betraying the people in the Pakistan crisis.
- ...the Pentagon's plan for a new nuclear sub race with the Russians which could cost \$100 billion.
- ...a German news publications' view of trends in the U.S. suggesting that fascism has "a good chance of coming to power in America by democratic means."
- ...questions raised about the use of the Federal grand jury to intimidate militant anti-war dissidents, by such moderate voices as the Christian Science Monitor, the New York Times and the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

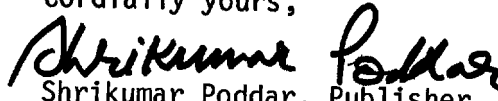
Until recently, Washington Watch was published by Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace and Reordering National Priorities.

Now a permanent non-profit organization has been formed to make certain that Tris Coffin's work can be carried on regardless of the course of events.

Most business newsletters cost \$45 to \$75 a year and cover only a limited area. Washington Watch covers the whole world and costs a modest \$1 a month or \$12 a year for 24 issues sent by First Class Mail.

Please accept the enclosed copy of Washington Watch with our compliments. Tris Coffin and I hope you will join the small but select group of our subscribers.

Cordially yours,


Shrikumar Poddar, Publisher
Washington Watch

P.S. If you do become a Washington Watch reader, you will be joining readers such as Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy; Sen. William Fulbright and others...

"I have been reading Washington Watch for some time and have become an avid reader of it. It assembles in one place information on the most current topics of the day, so that the thrust of current events can be grasped quickly and easily."
--Clark Clifford

"I have read the Washington Watch since its beginning, and find it most informative and important for anyone who is seriously interested in the war and the host of problems related to it."
--Erich Fromm